

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 220256

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:CEJ

APPROVED BY P:PHABIB

S/S:APSHANKLE

PM/SAS:DKEENE

NEA/RA - COL. HOBBS

DOD/ISA - MR. BLITGEN

ACDA/IR/AT - LTC. FLUHR

NEA/IRN - MR. NAAS

NEA:ADUBS

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R 041758Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DOHA

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T STATE 220256

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, QA, US

SUBJECT: QATARI INTEREST IN INFORMATION ON F-5S

REFS: (A) DOHA 862, (B) DOHA 863, (C) TEHRAN 8443

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO FURNISH

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 220256

SHAIKH HAMAD WITH UNCLASSIFIED TECHNICAL AND PROMOTIONAL

MATERIAL ON F-5 AIRCRAFT. SALE OF F-5S IS OUTSIDE EXISTING CRITERIA FOR ARMS SALES TO LOWER GULF STATES, AND WE SIMPLY DO NOT SEE EXCEPTIONAL MILITARY OR POLITICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGE IN POLICY NOW ON THIS ISSUE.

2. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT FURNISHING UNCLASSIFIED MATERIAL COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY GOQ, DESPITE BEST EFFORT ON OUR PART, AS CONSTITUTING SOME USG OBLIGATION TO SELL F-5S IF GOQ SO REQUESTED. WE THEREFORE CONCLUDE SUCH MATERIAL SHOULD NOT BE PROVIDED. SHOULD GOQ READ OUR POSITION AS INDICATING LACK OF INTEREST IN COUNTRY'S SECURITY, YOU MIGHT WISH REITERATE BROAD GENERAL LINES OF OUR ARMS POLICY TO QATARIS, EMPHASIZING THAT WE SEE THEIR SECURITY IN TERMS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION PARTICULARLY IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THEIR TWO LARGER NEIGHBORS. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER DEFENSE ITEMS NEEDED FOR QATAR'S INTERNAL SECURITY PURPOSES. F-5 AIRCRAFT, HOWEVER, ARE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS

WHOSE SALE COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY OTHER SMALL STATES IN THE GULF WHERE WE HAVE ESTABLISHED SAME RESTRAINTS. THUS, WE ARE NOT DISCRIMINATING AGAINST QATAR.

3. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY TEHRAN'S VIEW (REF C) THAT REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR MILITARY SUPPLY, TRAINING AND FACILITIES WILL HAVE TO COME FROM THE STATES THEMSELVES. WE THINK RESTRAINT ON OUR PART IN RESPONDING TO BILATERAL REQUESTS FOR SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT FROM LOWER GULF STATES IS MORE LIKELY TO BRING ABOUT REGIONAL COOPERATION THAN ACCEDING TO THIS TYPE OF REQUEST FROM GOQ. FYI: IF, FOR EXAMPLE, QATAR AND SAUDI ARABIA OR QATAR AND OTHER LOWER GULF STATES SOUGHT REASONABLE NUMBER OF F-5S IN CONTEXT OF A JOINT AIR DEFENSE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE THIS PROPOSAL CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. END FYI. ROBINSON

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